(c) what mechanism the Postal Department is adopting in mail processing with the help of Information Technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The local mails are being segmented from non-local mails in all metros and major towns for both ordinary mail and speed post articles. The local ordinary mail is handled through Green Channel. Green Letter Boxes are installed for posting and collecting of local ordinary mails for next day delivery. There are instructions to all Postal Circles to make special arrangements for next day delivery of local speed post articles.

(c) Automatic Mail Processing Centres have been installed at Mumbai and Chennai for processing of local mails as well as other mail. A web based track and trace system called 'Speed net' is operational for tracking the speed post articles and consignments.

Undersea cable by VSNL

2421. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VSNL has, recently, started working on laying 3175 kms. of undersea cable in the Indian seabed between India and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details of bandwidth capacity of the cable; and

(c) by when, the project is expected to be completed and become commercially operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) VSNL is implementing a submarine fibre optic cable system known as the Tata Indicom India-Singapore Cable System (TIISCS) linking Chennai in India to Singapore. The design capacity of the cable system is 5.12 Tbps.

(c) This project is likely to be ready for service by the end of financial year 2004-05.